

BACKGROUND

UMMA PARTY

1. Political expression of Mahdi's ANSAR, Moslem religious sect.
2. Umma has cooperated with British administration in past and has stood for Sudanese independence rather than union with Egypt.
3. Umma's strength depends on individual loyalty to Mahdi as head of Ansar.
4. Mahdi in past has been suspected of seeking to become king of Sudan with British backing.
5. Umma has claimed control of 70 percent of South Sudan. Present elections did not demonstrate this claim.

BACKGROUND

NATIONAL UNIONIST PARTY

1. Formed in Cairo on 31 October 1952 by merger of five Sudanese pro-union political parties.
2. Party largely financed by Egyptian funds.
3. Aim -- union of Sudan with Egypt.
4. Popular support drawn principally from KHATMIA, Moslem religious sect. Leader of Khatmia - life-long opponent of Madhi, who is leader of rival ANSAR sect and its political counterpart, Umma Party.
5. Mirghani may have about two million followers. Madhi has about four million.